

REMARKS

1. The election of Claims 2-14 is hereby affirmed.
2. The specification was objected to. The specification is amended as required by the examiner.
3. Claims 2, 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over “Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)” in view of U.S. patent 5,474,642 to Zorina et al.

Claim 2 is amended to recite a non-contact article holder comprising one or more pins, each pin being drivable to rotate around a corresponding **axis passing through the pin** and to thereby rotate the article when the article is pressed against the pin by a centrifugal force. This amendment is supported by Fig. 11. Pins 602.1, 602.2 rotate around their respective axes when driven by drives 502. The pins rotate a wafer 134 pressed against the pins by a centrifugal force. See Applicants’ specification, page 12, lines 25-27.

Zorina’s drive 36 (Fig. 7) does not have a rotatable pin on a side of support 8 as recited in Claim 2. AAPA also does not teach or suggest such pins.

Claims 9-14 depend from Claim 2.

4. Claims 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over AAPA in view of Zorina and further in view of U.S. patent 6,845,733 to Tokmulin et al.

Claims 3-4 depend from Claim 2. Tokmulin does not overcome the deficiency of AAPA and Zorina with respect to Claim 2 because Tokmulin does not teach or suggest rotating any one of his limiters 17 (Fig. 4) around an axis passing through the limiter as recited in Claim 2.

Claims 5-8 are canceled.

5. Claims 1, 9-14 were rejected for obviousness type double patenting, and also under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), over various combinations of U.S. patents 6,139,678; 6,105,534;

and 6,261,375. It is assumed that the rejection applies to Claim 2 rather than Claim 1 because Claim 1 was withdrawn from consideration.

The three patents, taken singly or together, do not teach or suggest a pin rotatable around an axis passing through the pin to rotate an article as recited in Claim 2. The '678 and '375 patents are no more pertinent to Claim 2 than AAPA. The '534 patent teaches rotation of substrate holders 40a-40c (col. 3, lines 32-35) but does not teach a pin as in Claim 2.

6. The amendments to Claims 3 and 4 are supported by Figs. 13-15 and the specification, page 13, lines 11-23.

Any questions regarding this case can be addressed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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